

Work with asbestos insulation and asbestos coating

Amendment to the Approved Code of Practice

Foreword

On 24 August 1982, the Commission decided that the control limit for chrysotile should be reduced to 1 fibre/ml; the control limit for amosite should be reduced to 0.5 fibre/ml; and the control limit for crocidolite should be maintained at 0.2 fibre/ml. These decisions implement the recommendations of the HSC's Advisory Committee on Asbestos on control limits (formerly referred to as "hygiene standards" in HSE Guidance Note EH10), and will require revision of EH10, which will set out the new control limits.

The Approved Code of Practice and Guidance Note on Work with asbestos insulation and asbestos coating make reference to the "hygiene standards" set out in Guidance Note EH10, and they will therefore need amendment. The proposed amendments to the Approved Code of Practice and the Guidance Note are attached. It is proposed to add an Appendix to the Approved Code of Practice, setting out the new control limits. Incorporating these new limits in the Approved Code makes specific reference to EH10 unnecessary and, it is proposed to make a general reference to guidance material on methods of measurement.

Approved Code of Practice on Work with asbestos insulation and asbestos coating Proposed amendments

Page 2, para 3(b):

Delete "hygiene standard". Add "control limit (see Appendix)".

Page 2, para 6, line 3:

Delete "hygiene standard". Add "control limit (see Appendix)".

Para 5, para 40, line 4:

Delete "hygiene standard set out in Guidance Note EH10". Add "control limit (see Appendix)".

Page 7, para 59, line 5:

Delete "hygiene standards set out in Guidance Note EH10". Add "control limit (see Appendix)".

Page 7, add the following:

"APPENDIX

Control limits for asbestos

(Reference to the control limits for asbestos are made in paras 3, 6, 40 and 59 of the main body of the Code and in para 53(k) of the accompanying guidance note)"

1 The control limits for the different forms of asbestos are:

For dust consisting of or containing crocidolite:	0.2 fibre/ml when measured over any 4 hour period
For dust consisting of or containing amosite but not crocidolite:	0.5 fibre/ml when measured over any 4 hour period
For dust consisting of or containing other types of asbestos but not crocidolite or amosite	1 fibre/ml when measured over any 4 hour period

- 2 The control limits set out above *do not* represent safe levels which once attained make further improvements in dust control unnecessary. They represent the upper limits of permitted exposure, as determined by personal air sampling techniques, where there is still a statutory duty to reduce exposure to a lower level provided that this is reasonably practicable.
- 3 For assessing compliance, sampling should be carried out for the whole 4 hour period. If this is not reasonably practicable or appropriate, sampling should be carried out for the period of exposure.
- 4 If sampling is carried out for the whole 4 hour period the results may be compared directly with the appropriate control limit.
- 5 Where sampling is carried out for a period of less than 4 hours then the control limit should be treated as though it referred to the sampling period not to the standard measurement period of 4 hours. The results of the sample should be assessed for compliance on this basis.
- 6 Where both short-term samples and a long-term sample covering the same 4 hour period are available the long-term sample should be used for assessing compliance.
- 7 When determining personal exposure to asbestos dust for comparison with the relevant control limit, appropriate methods set out as guidance notes issued by the HSE should be used. "Fibre" means particles of length greater than 5 micrometres, a diameter of less than 3 micrometres and having a length to breadth ratio of at least 3:1, observed by transmitted light under phase contrast conditions at a magnification of approximately 500x against a background with refractive index between 1.43 and 1.50."

**Guidance Note on
Work with asbestos
insulation and
asbestos coating**

Proposed amendments

Page 9, para 2, line 2:

Delete "Guidance Note EH10". Add "separate guidance notes issued by the Health and Safety Executive".

Page 13, para 30(c), line 4:

Delete "Guidance Note EH10". Add "separate guidance notes issued by the Health and Safety Executive".

Page 17, para 53(k), line 2:

Delete "hygiene standard". Add "control limit (see Appendix to accompanying Approved Code of Practice)".

Page 17, para 53(k), line 3:

Delete "Guidance Note EH10". Add "separate guidance notes issued by the Health and Safety Executive".



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